

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	Activities of and Admission to Party Membership in Sofia	DATE DISTR.	11 May 1954	
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1. Party offices of the second municipal district of Sofia are located at the end of Georgi Dimitrov Street, near the central railroad station. The Party cell, the smallest organizational unit, is controlled by a committee known as Partien Komitet. In the smallest cells, those with 15 to 20 members, this committee consists of three persons: the secretary; the member in charge of propaganda; and the member in charge of trade union matters, the DSNM (Dimitrovski Stoyuz na Narodnata Mladezh; Dimitrov's Union of the People's Youth), the Red Cross, the Bulgarian-Soviet Friendship League, the DOSO (Dobrovolna Organizatsiya za Sudeystvie na Otbranata; Voluntary Organization to Facilitate the Defense), and other mass organizations. Appointment of cell committee members, particularly the secretary, is made only upon approval of the municipal district committee (Rayonen Komitet).
2. The cell holds monthly or bi-monthly meetings. The agenda is fixed by the cell secretary in consultation with the district committee and generally includes the following:
 - a. A political lecture on current world events, Marxist-Leninist ideology, Communist leaders, or other like subjects. Cell members who prepare such lectures must use the material furnished by the district committee, which must also approve the lecture before it is read at the cell meeting.
 - b. Current organizational questions, such as admission to and expulsion from membership of the Party.
 - c. Questions concerned with the place of employment and work of the cell members.
3. Anyone wishing to become a Party member must first be admitted as a candidate-member for a trial period of one and one-half years. At the end of this period cell members vote to determine if the candidate is to be accepted as a member. Although the duties of a candidate-member and a member of the Party are almost identical, the candidate-member has neither the right to vote nor the privilege of being elected to any of the controlling bodies.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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4. Anyone wishing to become a member of the Party must submit the following documents to the Party secretary at his place of work:
 - a. An application to the cell committee;
 - b. A recommendation signed by three Communists;
 - c. A completed application form; and
 - d. An autobiography.

These documents are then sent to the district committee for study. After an interval which may be as long as three or four months, the applicant is summoned to the cell meeting, at which a representative of the district committee is usually present. The cell secretary reads all the documents presented by the applicant, after which the applicant gives a verbal narration of his life history and enumerates his reasons for applying to Party membership. Cell members then question him about his past, his social origin, and his membership in various organizations. When cell members have completed their questioning, the applicant leaves the room, and cell members then vote upon his admission to Party membership.

5. Party members who are absent from three cell meetings without furnishing sufficient and satisfactory reasons are expelled from Party membership.
6. Party dues are based upon the wages earned by the Party member. Monthly dues from a member who earns 650 leva per month are 25 leva.

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